



## Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board Recommendation 2004-12

### Thoughts on the Establishment and Operation of a Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) for Rocky Flats

Approved December 2, 2004

The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board believes that the current legislation establishing the Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO) does not meet the needs of the community because it excludes direct and equal participation by the wide range of local stakeholders. The Board recommends the Local Stakeholder Organization be established based on the following considerations.

#### **Establishment of a Local Stakeholder Organization (LSO):**

- In keeping with current federal legislation, an LSO for Rocky Flats should be established at least six months before regulatory closure of the site. Regulatory closure is defined as the approval of the final Corrective Action Decision / Record of Decision (CAD/ROD) for the site. Having an LSO up and running before this time would be beneficial in facilitating the transition of public involvement from Environmental Management (EM) to Legacy Management (LM).
- As an Environmental Management (EM) advisory board, the Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board (RFCAB) should continue to be funded and have a role as long as EM has a mission at the site. Retention of RFCAB during this period will assist in the transition of public involvement from EM to LM.
- Overlap of membership between RFCAB and the LSO would be appropriate as an additional means to foster the EM to LM transition.
- The LSO should be adequately funded, including funds to hire independent staff.
- The LSO should meet no less than on a quarterly basis, with the anticipation that more frequent meetings would be necessary and desirable during the initial period of operation.

#### **Membership on the LSO:**

- Membership on the LSO should be open to all stakeholders and be broadly representative of all community interests. During the Board's Community Workshop on Future Public Participation at Rocky Flats held in June 2004, the community developed the following list of potential stakeholders:
  - Citizens or residents, both locally and nationally
  - Site workers (those who currently work at the site and those who will continue to receive worker benefits in the future)
  - Students, particularly high school and college
  - Local governments (both current and former elected officials)
  - News media
  - Regulators
  - Those with technical interests
  - Public interest groups, particularly those with environmental and health interests
  - Educators
  - Health Professionals
  - Adjacent landowners
  - Mineral rights holders

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- Rocky Flats Museum
- Membership should include both elected and non-elected officials who would serve on an equal basis.
- Selection of membership to the LSO could follow the same model used to originally establish RFCAB in 1993, using the following steps:
  - Community agreement is reached on key stakeholder categories to include on the LSO.
  - Applicants are solicited.
  - An independent entity selects a limited number of initial members based on the key stakeholder categories.
  - The initial members complete the membership selection process by reviewing the remaining applications and making selections to round out the key stakeholder categories.
- Membership terms should be staggered so that new members can be brought in with fresh ideas, while some older members are retained to provide institutional knowledge.
- Representatives from site management (both Department of Energy and U.S. Fish and Wildlife), as well as key regulatory agencies should be appointed to serve as ex officio representatives.
- Whether or not the group is organized as a Federal Advisory Committee, key principles of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) such as membership diversity and open meetings should be used.

### **Purpose / Objectives / Responsibilities of an LSO:**

- The responsibility of the LSO should be inclusive of the entire site, including both the DOE-retained portions and those under control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Activities of the LSO:
  - Provide community oversight of Rocky Flats activities.
  - Provide a forum for addressing issues of former site workers.
  - Provide a mechanism to maintain public knowledge of Rocky Flats and to educate future generations of ongoing needs and responsibilities regarding contaminant management and refuge management.
  - Provide an interface with the Rocky Flats Museum.
  - Review the effectiveness of long-term stewardship activities including site monitoring and the maintenance and operation of controls, both physical and institutional.
  - Monitor refuge development and operation, including protection of the tall-grass prairie ecosystem.
  - Identify issues of concern post-closure and formulate alternatives to address them.
  - Develop recommendations to send to the Department of Energy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Board looks forward to wide future public participation in the establishment and future activities of the Local Stakeholder Organization.

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The Rocky Flats Citizens Advisory Board is a community advisory group that reviews and provides recommendations on cleanup plans for Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside of Denver, Colorado.

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